

714 CLAY AVENUE (Commercial)  
Jeannette  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6107

HABS  
PA  
65-JEAN,  
48-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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ADDENDUM TO:  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### 714 CLAY AVENUE (COMMERCIAL)

HABS No. PA-6107

LOCATION: 714 Clay Avenue, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

#### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In January 1889, McKeesport resident John Roehm optimistically purchased seven lots in the last two blocks of Clay Avenue from H. Sellers McKee for an average price of just over \$335. The western end of Clay Avenue was slow to develop, and most of the property remained vacant. This parcel passed through at least five changes in ownership before being sold to Nettie Anton of Jeannette in 1922. The Antons, Nettie and her husband Abraham, were first assessed for the new building in 1923 and were listed as living at this address that year. The couple had a dry goods business on the first floor. In the late 1940s, an appliance store, North Appliance Co. run by Joseph Croseti, was in business here. In the early 1960s, Clay Avenue Confectionary was the tenant. Mrs. Anton sold the property in 1974.

#### PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

With most of an early storefront in place, this is a good example of the second generation of commercial buildings in the original McKee lots along Clay Avenue. The building dates to 1922-23. A typical veneered three bay upper residential façade with a larger central window rests over a storefront framed by plain brick pilasters. A corbelled brick cornice with a finished stone cap, stone sills and stone lintels are also common features. Most of the wood and glass storefront appears to be contemporary with the building. Steel beams projecting from the building and brick or turned wood columns support the rear porches on both levels. The porches have wood decks and railings.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

*Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.* New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1925.

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 172/387, 308/329, 468/444, 381/189, 433/147, 690/384, 688/300, 694/204, 703/218, 2058/643, 2169/1197, 2880/21.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.